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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/374,598 | 08/13/1999 | JAN HENDRIK MENSEN | 044696-5007 | 3958 |

23345 7590 12/29/2003

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SUITE 1800
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EXAMINER

TRAN, HANH VAN

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3637

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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| EXAMINER |
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Commissioner for Patents

Art Unit: 3637

1. This Office Communications is in response to the Reply Brief filed on 7/21/03.
2. In response to Appellant's remarks on page 1 of the Reply Brief that "the Examiner's Answer ignores the numerous arguments presented in the appeal brief...", the examiner take the position that said arguments have been addressed in paragraph #11 of the Examiner's Answer under the heading "Response to Argument".
3. In response to Appellant's remarks on page 2, paragraph #2, the examiner agrees with Appellant's statement in the Brief.
4. In response to Appellant's remarks regarding grouping of claims, the examiner agreed with Appellant's grouping of claims presented therein.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh V. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-6302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (703) 308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

HVT *HVT*
December 17, 2003

LANNA MAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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Lanna Mai